Annual Operating Plan (AOP)

XXXX Cooperative Weed Management Area
XXXXCounties

Action Items for This Year

A. Weed Control Actions

As per the strategic plan, it was determined that Priorities 1 and 2 (Not yet present and New invaders) would always receive attention first. All parties will work to eradicate new invaders. For determining additional priorities, each Zone working group used the flow chart shown in Appendix A of the Annual Operating Plan to determine Priorities and Management Objectives for each weed species within that Zone. After those, the working groups selected Focus Projects for this year from the Priority 3 weeds - the areas where we will spend our joint efforts and resources in order to achieve one success per Zone in YEAR. The results of the prioritization are shown in Appendix B of the Annual Operating Plan. Focus Projects for YEAR are shown below for each Zone. It is likely that three to five years of continued treatment will be required to achieve control on each infestation.

Entire CWMA

As per the strategic plan, all Priority 1 and 2 weeds would be the primary control objectives for the entire CWMA. Regardless of the Zone the weed occurred in, these weeds would become the immediate priority of the CWMA's efforts.

Evaluation:

Objective – 95% or more control of infested acres.

Zone 1 - XXXX River

The XXXX Zone will again sponsor an effort south west of XXXX to treat leafy spurge. Another joint effort will be conducted to treat an infestation of Canada thistle on roughly 100 acres of XXXX Inc. Homeowners Common area. The public and all CWMA cooperators will be invited to join the effort to eradicate these weeds. Volunteers and others who do not possess Pesticide Applicators licenses will pull or grub weeds under supervision of a CWMA cooperator with plant identification skills. Those who do hold licenses may supervise others, or apply herbicide to infestations where applicable. This project is scheduled for June 27 and 28. Participants will meet at the XXXX office at 0900.

Evaluation:

Objective - 85% or more infested acres are treated, i.e. - weeds are removed or sprayed and prevented from producing seeds.

Zone 2 - XXXX River

Treat dalmatian toadflax infestations in two parts. The first part would be eradication of any outbreaks <u>outside</u> the Special Management Area (SMA) which roughly surrounds XXXX in a five mile radius. The purpose of this is to hold the infestation to it's current location, not allowing it to spread. The objective of eradication is 100% elimination (treating all identified acres) of all outbreaks. This would be accomplished by the Forest Service, the County, and the Idaho Department of Transportation. Detection and treatment efforts will be mainly, but not entirely directed to roadways and other travel corridors. All plants found outside of the SMA would be treated using Tordon, Escort, Telar, or Banvel/2,4-D (before first flower) per label directions.

The second part will include control efforts within the SMA. The purpose of this treatment will be to reduce the size of the infested area. This will be accomplished by the Forest Service, County, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, private landowners, and all others who may be interested or willing to assist. The objective will be to achieve at least 85% control on 50% of the acres identified this year. Previous treatments have resulted in effective control on younger plants, but the older plants seem to survive. The preferred method of treatment will be spraying with Tordon, Escort, Telar, or Banvel/2,4-D (before first flower) per label directions. The use of fire to increase the window of opportunity for treatment will be considered this year. This effort is scheduled for June 19 through 23 to start from the XXXX at 0900 on 6/19.

Work will continue in cooperation with the University of Idaho to attain and establish effective biocontrol agents on this infestation.

Evaluation:

Objectives -

Outside the SMA

Objective - 95% or more infested acres are treated, i.e. - weeds are removed or sprayed and prevented from producing seeds.

Inside the SMA

Objective - 85% or more infested acres are treated, i.e. - weeds are removed or sprayed and prevented from producing seeds.

Zone 3 - XXXX

Priority 1. Treat infestations of Canada thistle, spotted knapweed, jointed goatgrass, and other noxious weeds within the XXXX Special Management Area (SMA). The objective will be to achieve at least 85% control on 90% of the acres identified this year. The County, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and private landowners will accomplish this. The preferred method of treatment will be spraying with appropriate herbicides. Previous treatments were successful in controlling poison hemlock, but may have been less successful in efforts aimed at Canada thistle. The weather turned very hot and dry, and the plants essentially shut down right after we sprayed. We will try to treat earlier or add a fall treatment.

Priority 2. Treat Dalmatian toadflax infestations in two parts. The first part would be eradication of any outbreaks outside the Special Management Area (SMA), which lies roughly halfway between XXXX and XXXX. The objective of eradication is 100% elimination (treating all identified acres) of all outbreaks. The County, private landowners, and the Idaho Department of Transportation would accomplish this. All plants found outside of the SMA would be treated using Tordon mixed with Escort per label directions.

The second part will include control efforts within the SMA. The objective will be to achieve at least 85% control on 90% of the acres identified this year. The County, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and private landowners will accomplish this. The preferred method of treatment will be spraying with Tordon mixed with Escort per label directions. This effort is scheduled for May 15 through 19 to start from the SMA location at 0900 5/15.

Evaluation:

Objectives -

Outside the SMA

Objective - 95% or more infested acres are treated, i.e. - weeds are removed or sprayed and prevented from producing seeds.

Inside the SMA

Objective - 85% or more infested acres are treated, i.e. - weeds are removed or sprayed and prevented from producing seeds.

Priority 3. Treat Scotch thistle throughout the XXXX Valley and XXXX area in an effort to stop it's spread eastward. Public meetings will be held in XXXX, XXXX, and XXXX to explain the problem to the public and gain participation. If funded through a Pulling Together Initiative, a contractor would be hired to map the infestation, and organize a 2 to 3 day weed control effort using CWMA participants including private landowners, and the contractor's equipment and personnel. In addition to controlling this weed, this is an opportunity to educate and increase participation in the CWMA and it's efforts to control all noxious weeds.

Evaluation:

Objective - 95% or more infested acres are treated, i.e. - weeds are removed or sprayed and prevented from producing seeds.

All Zones within XXXXCWMA

Establish an awareness and education program to promote and monitor the "Weed Free Forage" program with in the XXXXCWMA. The XXXXCWMA will work the ISDA and USFS to produce brochures outlining the "Weed Free Forage" program, these will be made available at the ranger stations, trail heads and other appropriate locations. This includes sponsoring and conducting a hay exchange during hunting season to reduce the amount of non-certified forage taken into the backcountry by hunters. The XXXXCWMA will also identify sponsors or producers of certified hay willing to participate in a hay exchange and coordinate locations and volunteers to conduct the exchange. Dates will coincide with appropriate hunting seasons.

Evaluation:

Objective: Provide brochures to the XXXX, XXXX and XXXX Ranger Stations. Identify a location (XXXX weigh station), volunteers and have at least two ton of certified hay available for exchange during hunting season. Rent appropriate signs (lighted electronic reader boards) to make passing hunters aware of the exchange.

Monitoring: A count of vehicles/ hunters stopped and information contacts will be kept along with a log of forage exchanges.

B. Comprehensive Inventory

A coordinated weed database has been developed and will be maintained for the entire management area. As a minimum the database will include: Size of infestation, name of target plant, density, location, and accuracy. Base maps will be USGS 1/24000 topographic quads. Information will be stored in a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database.

The agencies involved will be responsible for furnishing the necessary topographic maps for the lands under their jurisdiction. All cooperators will offer input into the location and types of infestation. The inventory/GIS database will be maintained at the State of Idaho, Department of Agriculture office.

All parties will accomplish mapping with access to GPS units. The three county entities will map as they treat weeds. Additional monies gathered by the XXXXCWMA may be used to supplement wages for these weed control individuals. GPS data from each county will be corrected and exported to a GIS format. The GIS data will then be compiled at XX by the hired contractor.

Evaluation:

Objectives: Inventory with GPS 100 acres per zone
Newly mapped acres and entered into GIS 200 acres per zone

C. Education/Public Affairs

In YEAR, the XXXXCWMA received excellent support and assistance which resulted in television coverage of the shared work projects. We also made the local papers on several occasions.

In the Month/Day/Year UPCWMA meeting, the group decided the priority target audiences for the YEAR season would be private landowners, especially recreation residences owners, and organized recreation and sports groups. We decided to develop 3-fold folder or similar flyer for use with those groups. Secondly, the group will attempt to develop a website to improve both external and internal communication, and develop partnerships with selected businesses such as REI, Honda, etc. Thirdly, the XXXXCWMA will take advantage of existing weed control or pest management seminars, and sponsor at least one weed meeting in each zone to spread the word and increase participation. These meetings are slated for XXXX, XXXX at the spring Community meeting and/or perhaps a summer meeting, and in XXXX in April. Signs will also be developed, indicating the boundaries of the XXXXCWMA, and additional informational signs may be installed.

Objectives:

Develop flyer and distribute to private land owners
Website Development
Conduct tours

D. Monitoring

Monitoring is the collection of information to determine the effectiveness of management actions in meeting the prescribed objectives. In noxious weed management we are concerned with the density and rate of spread of specific exotic plant species and the effect these aggressive plants have on the natural resources of the XXXX River drainage.

In YEAR, we will use Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS) technology to locate infestations, and collect information on each infestation regarding size, density, phenology, and treatment type and date.

Short term monitoring (YEAR) will be conducted to verify existing locations, add new locations, and gather information on size of infestation, density, phenology, and treatment.

Long term monitoring will be designed to answer general questions:

" Are the treatments effective in meeting the planned objectives?
" Are the weeds continuing to spread beyond our control actions?

Information as result of specific monitoring of chemical treatments, bio-control agents, and general weed spread, will be evaluated to answer the three resource questions stated above.

1. Long Term Spread of Weeds.

Monitoring of weed spread and /or suppression will be accomplished through existing database and GIS layer. An inventory to re-map infestations will be completed in five years to compare with YEAR inventory. Yearly treatment summaries will also be used to assess weed spread. Annual treatment activities will be mapped and incorporated into the existing databases.

Objectives

Inventory 20% of sites where inventories were conducted last year. Compare to last year's inventory and summarize results.

2. Chemical Treatment.

Herbicide treatments will be monitored following two general intensity levels.

a. Visual Assessments: Personnel will conduct visual reconnaissance of the treated area after chemical application to determine the presence or absence of target plants, and/or desirable vegetation.

b. Systematic sample: Within selected infestations sample plots will be established to document changes in target plant densities, and species composition and cover of desirable vegetation.

3. Bio-control Agents:

XXXXCWMA will develop and implement monitoring protocols for determining establishment and effectiveness of biological control agent releases. UPCWMA will utilize available resources such as the University of Idaho, USDA-FS Forest Health Protection, USDA-FS Research, and ARS to develop specific monitoring techniques that can be effectively applied across the insect release zones.

Appendix B of the Annual Operating Plan shows a list of biocontrol agents, which have been released within the UPCWMA.

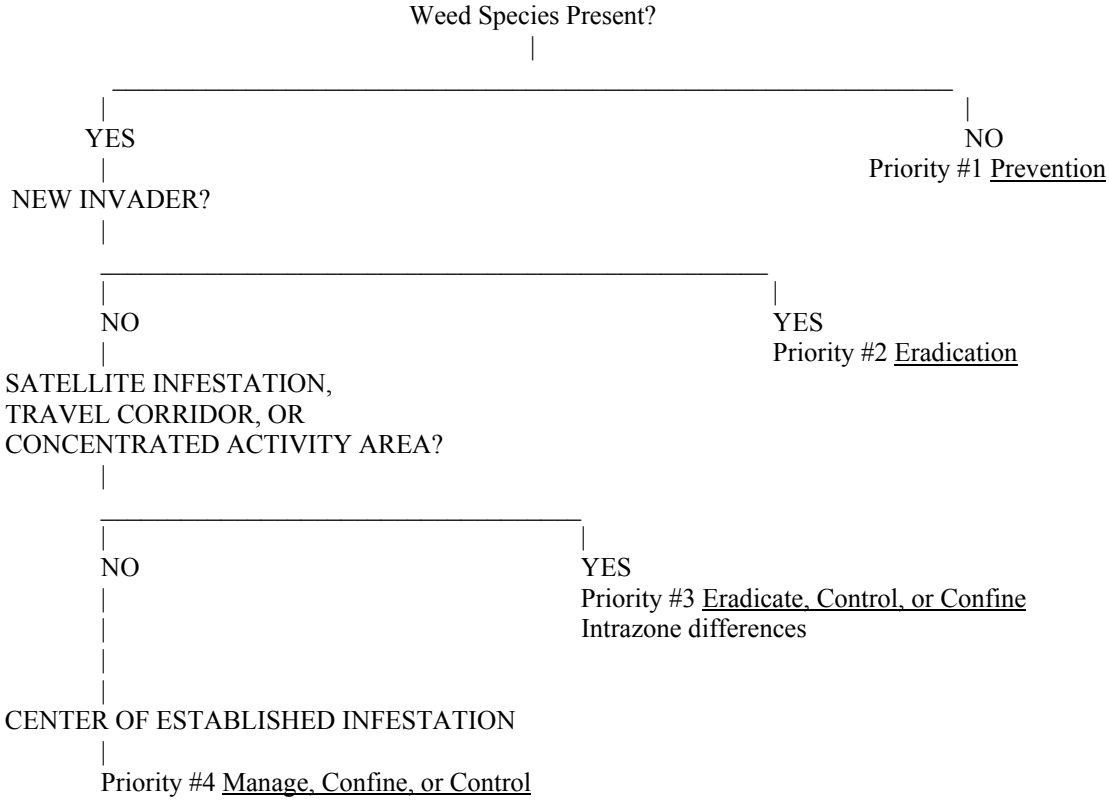
Monitoring will determine insect establishment success, insect population trends, insect impact on target plants, and the effect of insect populations on weed population density and spread.

General visual reconnaissance will periodically be completed for insects that have been targeted to Canada thistle, leafy spurge, and dalmatian toadflax.

Objectives:

Conduct systematic sampling on 10% of sites where control work was done last year.
Conduct visual assessments on 20% of sites where control work was done last year.

APPENDIX A
PRIORITY/MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE FLOW CHART



APPENDIX B
ZONE PRIORITIES

ZONE	SPECIES	ZONE WIDE PRIORITY	SUB-ZONE	TREATMENT
1	Tansy Ragwort	2	Yes, East	Mechanical (Remove Seed), Chemical (Tordon)
	Leafy Spurge	3	No	Biological (Apthona ssp.), Chemical(Plateau, Tordon)
	Canada Thistle	4	No	Chemcial (Tordon, Curtail, Escort)
2	Eurasian Watermilfoil	1	No	Any approved methods
	Rush Skeletonweed	3	No	Chemical (Tordon, 2,4-D)
	Canada Thistle	4	No	Chemcial (Tordon, Curtail, Escort)
3	Yellow Toadflax	2	No	Chemical (Tordon, Escort)
	Perennial Pepperweed	2	No	Chemical (Tordon, Escort)
	Canada Thistle	4	No	Chemcial (Tordon, Curtail, Escort)